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18 August 1964

TO :  
25X1AATTN :  
FROM :

SUBJECT: Guidance on the Release of Gravity Data

25X1A Reference:  dated 5 August 1964

25X1A 1. The concern of  for the national security interests involved in the release of the gravity data for the international crustal research program is unquestionably correct. The Soviet Union attaches the highest security importance to gravity data and has successfully and consistently denied them to the international scientific community. No one knows this better than  and it is this awareness that is implied in his three proposal alternatives to gain access to the gravity data.

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25X1A 2. The legal aspects governing the release of strategic data have been discussed with an official of the Department of Commerce to ascertain current Departmental policy in its implementation of Public Law 87-515, the Export Control Act of 1949, as amended. The Department, as a result of pressure from the scientific community when preparations were underway for the International Geophysical Year, has been forced to exclude basic scientific information, such as gravity data, from export licensing requirements. On the other hand, the Department encourages the withholding of unclassified strategic information wherever possible, but the final judgment must be made by each individual possessing such information. To assist the  in this judgment, the attached paper may be shown to personnel having an appropriate clearance.

25X1A 3. The request by  poses a difficult dilemma -- the legitimate interests of science versus the interests of national security.  desire to obtain data under alternatives (1) and (2) for complete disclosure under the international program would be unquestionably against the national interest. On the other hand, but without presuming to influence the final

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Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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decision of [redacted] we could see a practical possibility under the third alternative to make data available for the delineation of crustal cross-sections without the incorporation of either the point values or the associate anomaly maps. We would, therefore, also advise against the disclosure of information for the proposed end-products: the 1:500,000 anomaly maps and the 1° square mean anomaly values. These are the types of end-products that the USSR continues to withhold from the world scientific community.

4. This suggested restriction on the use of US gravity data is by no means a purely negative act. It could become a "lever" in the hands of a US scientist since he can confront the Soviet scientist with the consideration of a possible quid-pro-quo exchange. When and if such a possibility were to develop, further guidance could be provided to evaluate each proposal.

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